

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to interior illumination and, more particularly, to lighting fixtures and the like.

Please amend page 1, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The illumination of interior spaces, such as offices, work areas, exposition areas, [and] transit [or] and other waiting rooms, is typically achieved using individual lighting devices embedded in the ceiling or walls, or [fit in] mounted to the ceiling. Aside from the relative undesirable aesthetics of the shape of [single] these devices, not only [does] is the effective illumination [of this type] achieved [results that are] rather often limited [in effect], but frequently it is also [even entirely] completely ineffective, especially [in the presence of] when used in rooms with low ceilings or [in rooms of] that are relatively small [relatively] in size.

Please amend page 1, paragraph 5, to read as follows:

[As for the] When an occupant wishes to use [of] light sources to decorate a room to their personal taste ~~of the occupant, as well as the~~ and/or wants to use such sources to present[ing] advertising messages in public transit rooms, lighting panels are frequently used to [for] reproduc[ing]e decorative images and various types of messages [are frequently used]. [Devices] Arrangements of this [type] sort, i.e., those whose primary function is generally less for illumination of a room, and more for luminous decoration or transmission of messages, usually include an opalescent panel on which an image is reproduced with a light source behind whose light passes in a nearly uniform manner through the panel. Since these [S]olutions [of this type] are typically adapted essentially for wall-type installation only, and because the images produced therefore lack depth, [which renders them] they have been found unsuitable for installation in those rooms [characterized by] having modest dimensions.

Please amend from after paragraph 5 on page 1 through paragraph 1 on page 2 to read as follows:

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an illumination device that creates an illusion of natural light originating from an external source, [suggested] through a selected decorative image including, but not limited to, one of a natural image.

Please amend page 2, paragraph 2, to read as follows.

~~This and other objects and advantages are achieved by~~ In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, an illumination device ~~according to the present invention is provided,~~ which comprises a box-like body [with] having a back wall with [and] side walls extending from the back wall, an opening being provided in a wall opposite the back. ~~On the inner face of the back,~~ a A decorative image is reproduced on an inner face of the back wall, by which a light source [aimed] directed toward the back wall extends internally along a frame delimiting the opening, the side walls having reflective surfaces.

Please amend page 2, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

Alternatively or concurrently, according to another aspect of the present invention, the illumination device ~~according to the present invention,~~ which may not only be used for both embedded ceiling or wall installation as well as ceiling-fitted installation, but also fit in conjunction with equivalent modules, [has the] advantageously [of] provid[ing]es illumination of a room by effectively creating the illusion that the light comes from a natural light source, the illusion being accentuated by a sense of depth [which is] given to the background image by the [presence] use of reflective side walls.

Please amend page 2, paragraph 5, to read as follows:

FIG. 1 is a side [cross-]sectional view of an embedded illumination device, according to one aspect of the present invention;

Please amend from after paragraph 5 on page 2 to before the first full paragraph on page 3 to read as follows:

FIG. 2 is a side [cross-]sectional view of a ceiling-fitted illumination device, according to another aspect of the present invention;

Please amend page 3, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a ceiling installation of an illumination device, according to a further aspect of the present invention;

Please amend page 3, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

FIG. 4 is a perspective view [of] illustrating a wall installation of a plurality of illumination devices, according to the present invention;

Please amend page 3, third full paragraph, to read as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1 - 4, there is shown generally a specific, illustrative, illumination device, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention. According to one embodiment, shown generally in FIGS. 1 and 2, the device has a box-like body 1 including a back wall 2, side walls 3 extending from the sides of the back wall, and a front wall 4 extending from the side walls, opposite the back wall. Preferably, the front wall is formed by a generally perimetrical frame 4a projecting inwardly or interiorly from the side walls so as to delimit an opening 4b.

Please amend from after the third full paragraph on page 3 to before the first full paragraph on page 4 to read as follows:

Inside body 1, along frame 4a, a tubular, florescent light source 5 is preferably arranged[,] for providing substantially uniform illumination along a perimetrical extension of the frame. This extension has a raised edge 4c for hiding the light source from view. On an inner face of the back walls, a decorative image 6 is desirably reproduced, for example, of a natural type such as the image of a clear sky, a mountainous landscape, a marine land-scape, or any other image(s) characterized either by intrinsic luminosity or a capacity to suggest the sensation of natural light. Interior faces of side walls 3 are preferably constructed of a selected reflective material [in order] to exalt the desired

depth of the image transmitted. The image may be printed on a relatively flexible panel, for instance, a plastic or paper film, and applied directly to back wall 2[,]. Alternatively or concurrently, the image may be reproduced on a generally rigid panel, to be fastened to the back wall at a selected distance, also so as to allow [the] interposition of a new or conventional power supply 7 otherwise placed outside the back wall.

Please amend page 4, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

Optionally, the illuminating device of the present invention is equipped with a device or apparatus that [permits mounting of] enables the embedded connection to be mounted in a ceiling, wall or ceiling-fitting. Such devices and/or apparatus are known by those skilled in the art and further description is unnecessary for purposes of illustrating the present invention. The illumination device, according to various aspects of the present invention, may be used independently or in combination with other equivalent devices to form illuminating surfaces with natural backgrounds, such as that illustrated in FIG. 3. Alternatively or concurrently, each illumination device, in accordance with the invention, comprises a module of a relatively complex, larger composite [larger] image, in which the background image provided in each device is a fraction or portion of the larger image [which] that is formed and visible only after all illumination devices have been installed, and appropriately combined and arranged relative to one another. An [example of] exemplary complex-type image composition generated by illumination devices, according to the present invention, is illustrated in FIG. 4.

Please amend from after the first full paragraph on page 4 through to the end of that paragraph on page 5 to read as follows:

As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, ~~even if a primary objective of~~ although the present invention is intended to provide an illumination device which gives the sensation of natural luminosity through [an association with] natural-like images, such device may also be [associated] used in connection with any other type of decorative image including, but not limited to, advertising messages; provided, however, that the device is [equipped] provided with its own intrinsic luminosity. Moreover, the sense of depth generally conferred [to] upon the image, [due to] which results from the structure of the illumination device in accordance with the present invention, [permits] makes the device [to be] suitable for use[d] in applications where traditional light panels are not usually desired or recommended.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph 1 on page 5:

Various modifications and alterations to the present invention may be appreciated based on a review of this disclosure. These changes and additions are intended to be within the scope and spirit of the invention as defined by the following claims.